

Promises of God

4. Church of God



Ephesians 5:29 "For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:"

Meaning: There are many promises concerning the church. This one in particular states that God will nourish and cherish the church. A church is a local, visible, organized assembly of saved and baptized believers. The word "nourisheth" in the text means to rear up to maturity. God does this through the preaching and teaching of His Word. The word "cherisheth" means to brood or foster. God protects and cares for His church.

Application: The church is the body of Christ. Just as we take care of our own physical body, so will Christ take care of the church. The church is not man's invention, but God's living organism. Spiritual growth and protection come from being part of His body, the church (Ephesians 1:22, 23). Being nourished and cherished by God is a promise to those in church.

Other Verses for Study: Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 20:28; II Corinthians 8:1; Ephesians 2:20-22; 5:23-27; Colossians 1:13, 18, 24; I Timothy 3:15

1. What is a church? _____

2. What does the word "nourisheth" mean?

3. Spiritual _____ and _____ come from being part of His body, the church.

"The church is still to be reckoned with. 'The gates of hell shall not prevail against her.'"